

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



story: ISAO MIURA

art: KOTARO YAMADA

Atelier Liza



LAUNDRY
TIME!
LAUNDRY
TIME!

LOOK AT
ALL THE
LOVELY
WHITE
SHEETS!

YEE!
YEE!

HAIL,
THE
HOUSE!

I REQUEST
A MEETING
WITH THE
MASTER
OF THIS
SMITHY!



Chapter

8

Princess

(Part 1)



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 3
ブラックスミス



Volume 3

Art by
Kotaro Yamada

Story by
Isao Miura

Character Design by
Luna

登場人物紹介 Characters



Luke Ainsworth

ルーク・エインズワース

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

セシリー・キャンベル

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the independent trade city of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

アリア

The "Demon Blade" of wind. A demon "born" at the end of the Valbanill War, she normally walks about as a human woman. However, she can turn into a rapier at will.



Lisa

リサ

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.

Supporting Cast



Hannibal Quasar
ハンニバル・クエイサー

Captain of the Third District Knight Guard, and Cecily's commander.



Hugo Housman
ヒューゴー・ハウスマン

The elected mayor of the independent trade city of Housman, where Cecily and Luke live.

あらすじ *Story*

Imperial Territory

聖剣の刀鍛冶 *The Sacred Blacksmith*

Cecily fights the monster, swearing to save everyone she can, including Aria and even the monster itself. With Luke's help, she manages to defeat the monster and protect Aria.



Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Pacts.

Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth, and asks him to forge for her a sword.



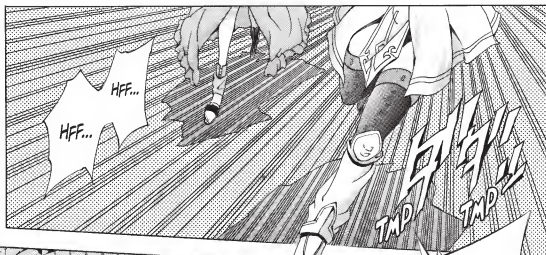
That event forges a strong bond of friendship between Cecily and Aria. With a fourth added to their group, Cecily and company return to their peaceful daily lives. However, Aria casts a meaningful glance in the direction of Blair Volcano...

Cecily is given the duty of guarding a woman named Aria, the "Demon Blade." Together with Lisa, the three enjoy the entertainments of the Market, held quarterly in the city.

But Aria is set to be sold during the Market's auction. Cecily is on hand to give a demonstration with Aria, but as soon as she changes into the Demon Blade, a monster attacks the Market, wanting Aria for himself...

The Sacred  Blacksmith

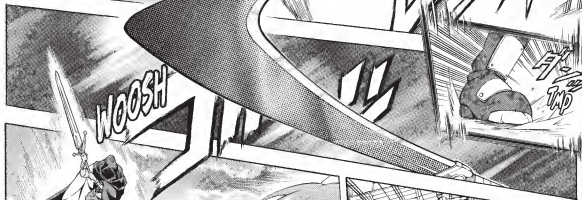
聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

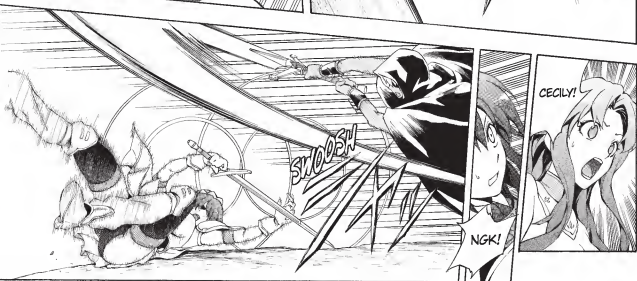


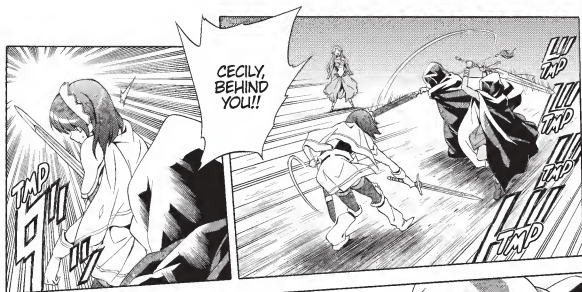
ARIA,
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!

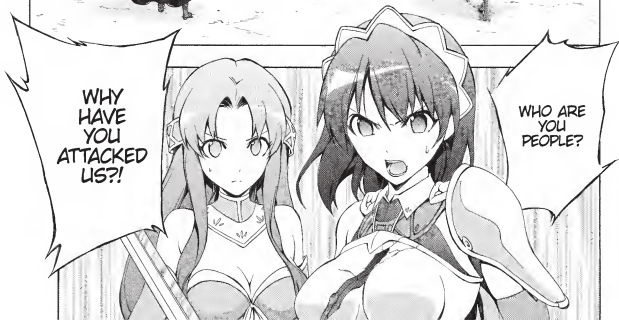
Y-
YES...













WE'VE
GOT NO
QUARREL
WITH YOU,
KNIGHT.

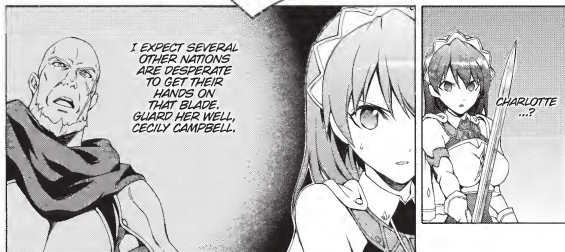
JUST
HAND
OVER THE
DEMON
BLADE!



I
THOUGHT
SO.



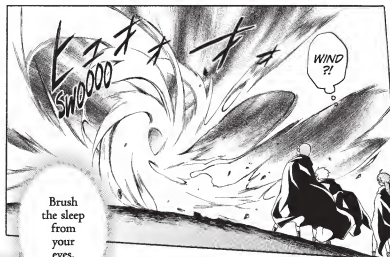
FOR LADY
CHARLOTTE!!



CHARLOTTE
...?







Brush
the sleep
from
your
eyes.



Reach
for the
truth.

Hold
the wind
in these
hands...

Kill
God.





ARE
YOU
READY?!



THEY'VE
SEEN
DEMON
BLADES.
THEY MUST
KNOW HOW
FEARSOME
THEIR
POWER
CAN BE.



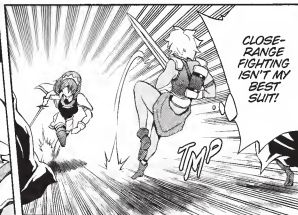
AHA!
ABOUT TIME
YOU SHOWED
US WHERE
YOU STASHED
THE DEMON
BLADE.













I'M
MARGOT.

AND THIS
IS THE
CRIMSON
LIGHT
DEMON
BLADE,
RHOMPHAIR!

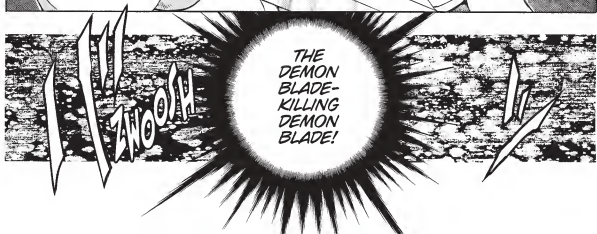
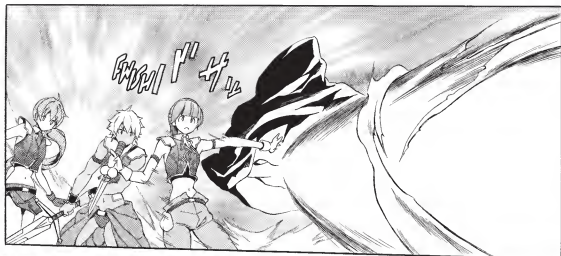
THAT RED
LIGHT IS
EXTENDING
THE
LENGTH
OF THE
BLADE!

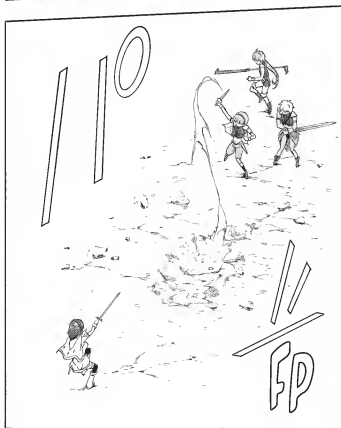
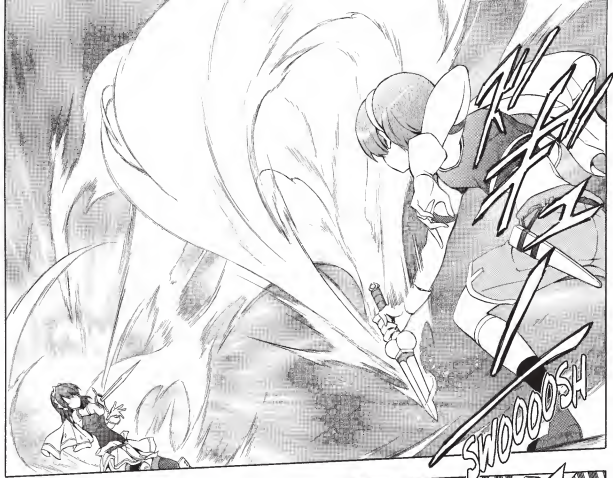
THEY
HAVE
TWO
DEMON
BLADES!!

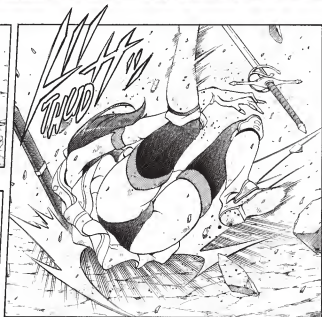
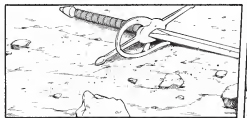
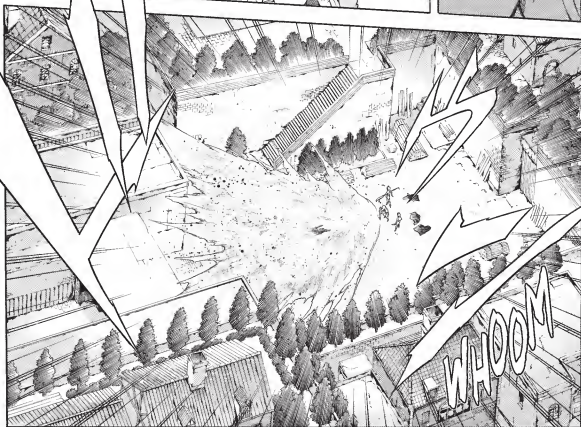


BUT I
WON'T
LOSE
THAT
EASILY!

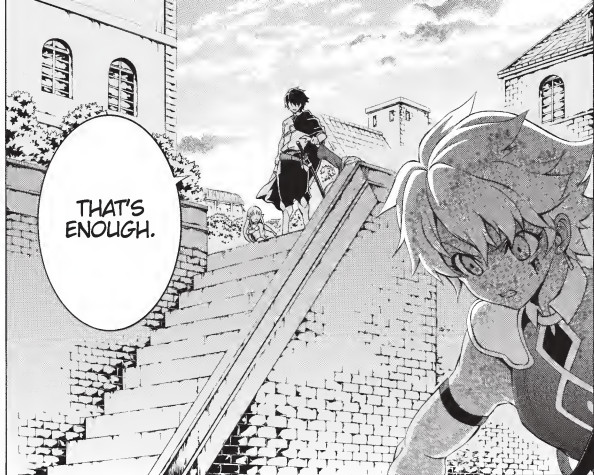














The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 プ ラ ッ ク ス 鍛 冶 ミ ス

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

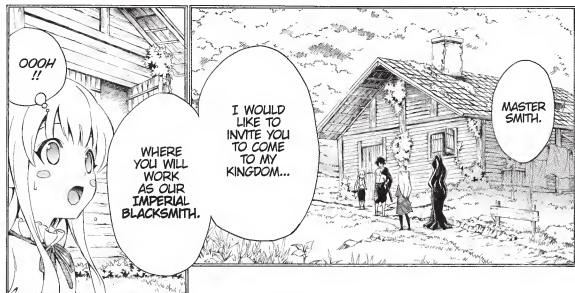
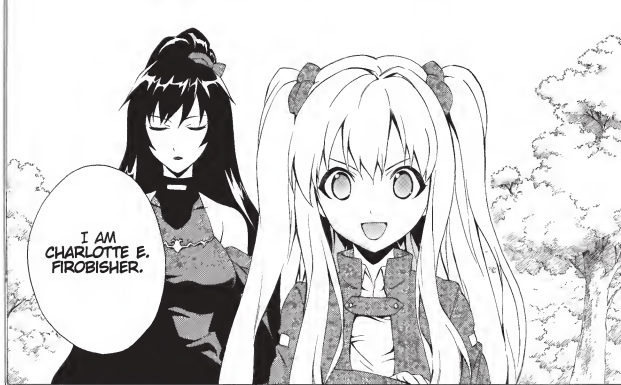


Chapter

9

Princess

(Part 2)





EVADNE!



BUT
BEFORE I
DO SO,
I MUST
ASSURE
MYSELF
OF YOUR
SKILL.



FWOOOOO

Kill
God.

To
you is
given
the
End...

Brush
the
sleep
from
your
eyes.

Cloak
yourself
in
night.

A
FLAMBERGE!



AND THEN,
ITS BLACK
FLAME
WILL BURN
THE
WOUND TO
ASH!

BWOOF

THE WAVES
OF ITS
BLADE WILL
GOLGE
FLESH
AND RIP
MUSCLE!

USE
EXTREME
CAUTION,
OR ELSE.

WHY AM I
SUPPOSED
TO FIGHT
YOU
AGAIN...?

DO NOT
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
THE
CUTTING
EDGE OF A
FLAMBERGE.

LET
ME
WARN
YOU.
OOF!

SWOOOO

PROVE
TO ME
THAT YOUR
SWORD IS
WORTHY
OF BEING
CALLED THE
"SACRED
BLADE"!!

NOW,
HEIR OF
THE
KATANA
BLACK-
SMITH!

WOOSH

THW

THW







YOU
SOUND
SO MUCH
LIKE THAT
IRRITATING
WOMAN.
IT'S GETTING
ON MY
NERVES.



IT HAS
LONG BEEN
SAID THAT
KATANA
HAVE A
PURIFYING
POWER.



IT
EXTINGUISHED
EVADNE'S
BLACK
FLAME?!

IMPOSS-
IBLE...



AND
THAT IS
THE END
OF THIS
LECTURE.



FORGING A
KATANA OUT
OF THAT TYPE
OF JEWEL
STEEL GIVES IT
THE ABILITY TO
CUT THROUGH
ANY MAGIC.

IT IS A
NATURAL
ANTI-DEMON
WEAPON,
AS DEMONS
ARE MADE OF
HUMAN FLESH
FUSED WITH
SPIRIT
ESSENCE.

THE TATARA
METHOD OF
CREATING
JEWEL STEEL
IMBUES IT
WITH "SPIRIT
ESSENCE."

AGAIN
WITH THE
"SACRED
BLADE"...

NO,
IT IS NOT.
IT'S JUST
ANOTHER
HALF-DULL
BLANK.



AND THAT'S
THE END
OF THE
ADDENDUM
TO THE
LECTURE!

BYE
BYE!

BY THE WAY,
THERE'S A
FACTORY BY THE
FOOT OF BLAIR
VOLCANO THAT
MAKES JEWEL
STEEL USING THE
TATARA METHOD.
THEY SELL THEIR
WARES IN THIS
TOWN AND
OTHERS!



I SEE.
SO THIS
IS THE
"SACRED
BLADE"!

A BLADE
WHICH
CAN SLICE
THROUGH
EVIL...

THE
EMPEROR
HAS
SET HIS
STANDARDS
EVEN
HIGHER?

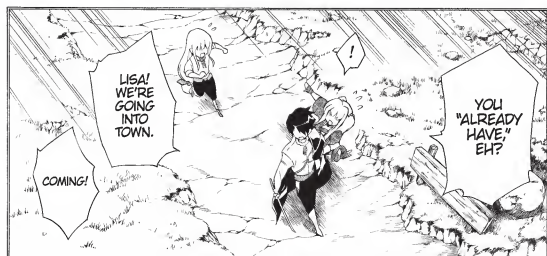
WHAT?
IS EVEN A
BLADE AS
MAGNIFICENT
AS THIS NOT
ENOUGH?

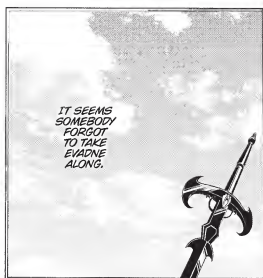
THE
EMPEROR...



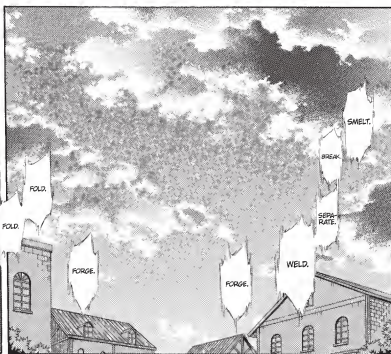








BEGIN FORGING.



LADY
CHARLOTTE
!!

CUT
POINT.

DRAW.

CORE
STEEL,
COM-
PLETE.

SKIN
STEEL,
COM-
PLETE.

BLADE
CON-
STRUCTION.

FWOOOO

FINAL
STAGE.

ROUGH
FINISH.

CLAY
COAT.

HEAT.

STRAIGHTEN.

SET
EDGE.

SHARPEN.

FOUNDA-
TION
POLISH:
BINSUI
STONE.

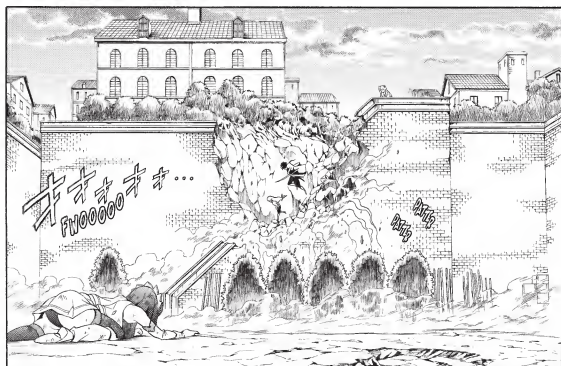
KAISEI
STONE.

CHI-
NAGURA
STONE.

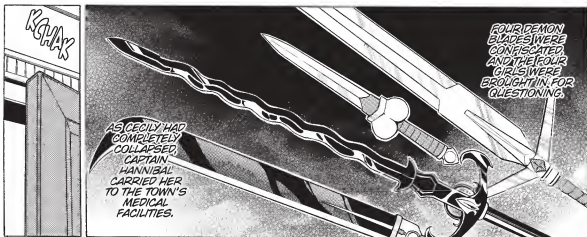
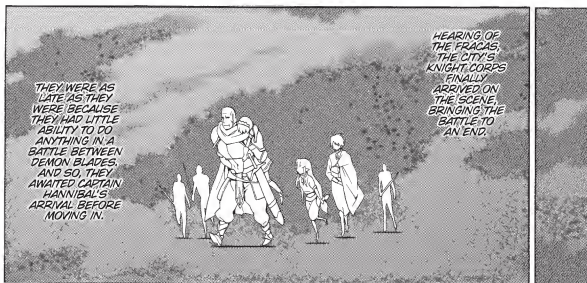
KOMA-
NAGURA
STONE.











—THIRD DISTRICT,
PUBLIC OFFICES—

YES,
SIR.

I'M
HONORED
BY YOUR
CONCERN—

ARE YOU
SURE IT IS
WISE FOR
YOU TO BE
UP AND
ABOUT?

YOU
MUSTN'T
PUSH
YOURSELF
TOO
MUCH.

WAIT...

ALLOW
ME TO
EXPLAIN.

WHAT
ARE
THESE
THREE
DOING
HERE?!

THINGS
HAVE
GOTTEN...
COMPLI-
CATED.





I WILL
BUY THAT
DEMON
SWORD
FROM YOU,
THEN.



YES,
I UNDER-
STAND IN
REGARDS
TO THE
BLACKSMITH.

HOWEVER,
I CANNOT
RETURN
HOME
EMPTY-
HANDED.

YOUR
HIGHNESS,
I BELIEVE
I ALREADY
EXPLAINED
TO YOU...



I WILL
ENTERTAIN
ANY
REASONABLE
PRICE YOU
NAME.

THE
EMPIRE
VALUES
DEMON
BLADES
HIGHLY.

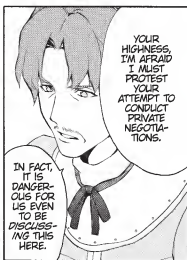
I WILL,
OF
COURSE,
PAY AN
APPRO-
PRIATE
SUM FOR IT.



OR IS THIS
TOWN, THAT
PRIDES ITSELF
ON BEING AN
"INDEPENDENT"
TRADE CITY,
FRIGHTENED
OF THE
EMPIRE'S
NAME?

WHAT
COULD BE
WRONG
WITH
THAT?

DANGEROUS?
THERE SHOULD
BE NO
PROBLEM IF WE
CONDUCT THIS
AS A SIMPLE
BUSINESS
TRANSACTION
BETWEEN TWO
PEOPLE.



YOUR
HIGHNESS,
I'M AFRAID
I MUST
PROTEST
YOUR
ATTEMPT TO
CONDUCT
PRIVATE
NEGOTIA-
TIONS.

IN FACT,
IT IS
DANGEROUS
FOR US EVEN
TO BE
DISCUSS-
ING THIS
HERE.

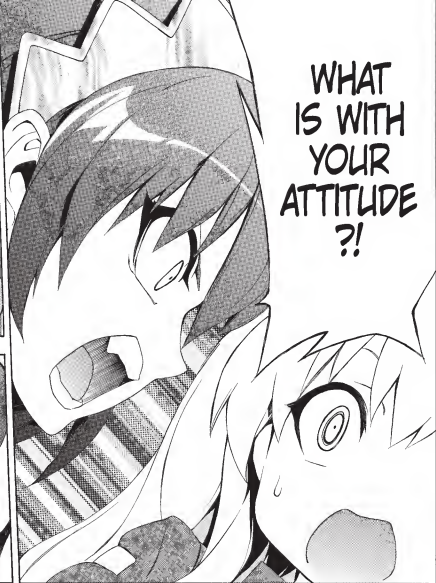


TEKK!

YOU...
YOU CAN'T
SPEAK
TO LADY
CHARLOTTE
LIKE THAT!



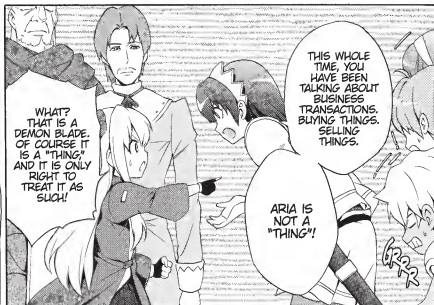
SHUT
UP
AND
SIT
DOWN
!!



WHAT
IS WITH
YOUR
ATTITUDE
?!



NO! ARIA
HAS HER
OWN MIND,
HER OWN
WILL.



WHAT?
THAT IS A
DEMON BLADE.
OF COURSE IT
IS A "THING,"
AND IT IS ONLY
RIGHT TO
TREAT IT AS
SUCH!

THIS WHOLE
TIME, YOU
HAVE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT
BUSINESS
TRANSACTIONS.
BUYING THINGS.
SELLING THINGS.

ARIA IS
NOT A
"THING"!



I WILL NOT
PERMIT
ANYONE
TO INSULT
HER!

CECILY
...

SHE IS
MY
FRIEND
AND MY
PARTNER!

SHE EATS
AND
SLEEPS,
LAUGHS,
AND CRIES,
JUST LIKE
ANY OTHER
HUMAN.

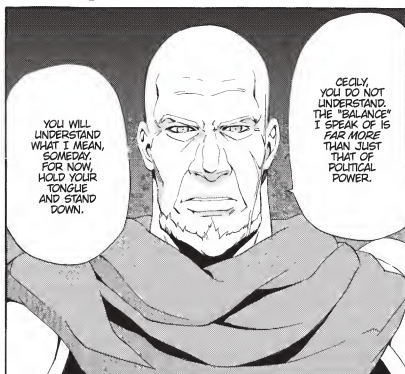


WE
CANNOT
DO
THAT.



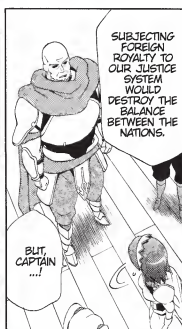
YOU
DESERVE
TO BE
TRIED AND
PUNISHED
LIKE ANY
OTHER
THIEF!

"NEGOTIATIONS,"
MY FOOT!
THE VERY FIRST
THING YOU
DID WAS TO
ATTEMPT TO
STEAL ARIA
FROM ME BY
FORCE!



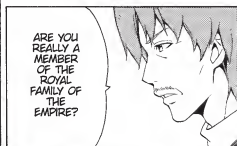
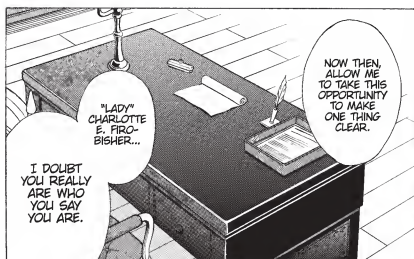
YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I MEAN,
SOMEDAY.
FOR NOW,
HOLD YOUR
TONGUE
AND STAND
DOWN.

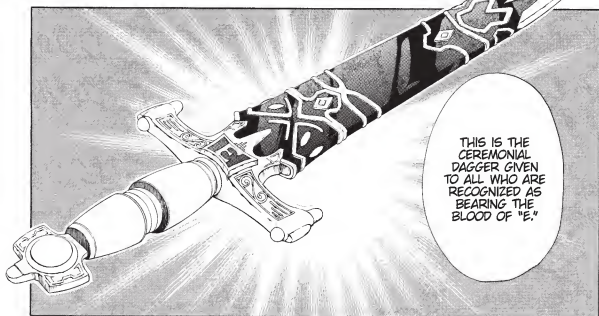
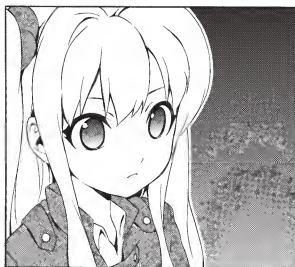
CECILY,
YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.
THE "BALANCE"
I SPEAK OF IS
FAR MORE
THAN JUST
THAT OF
POLITICAL
POWER.



SUBJECTING
FOREIGN
ROYALTY TO
OUR JUSTICE
SYSTEM
WOULD
DESTROY THE
BALANCE
BETWEEN THE
NATIONS.

BUT,
CAPTAIN
....



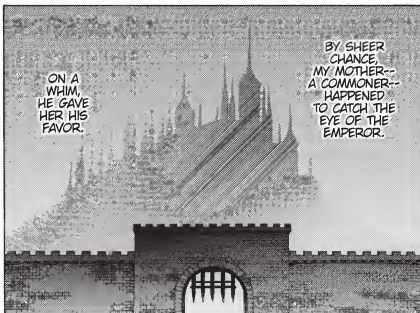


AND BY HAPPEN-
STANCE, SHE BORE
HIM A CHILD--
ME.



ON A
WHIM,
HE GAVE
HER HIS
FAVOR.

BY, SHEER
CHANCE,
MY MOTHER--
A COMMONER--
HAPPENED
TO CATCH THE
EYE OF THE
EMPEROR.



THE EMPRESS
WENT MAD
WITH JEALOUSY,
AND WE WERE
EXILED FROM
THE COURT.

EIGHT YEARS
AFTER I
WAS BORN,
MOTHER'S SECRET
RELATIONS WITH
HIS EXCELLENCY
WERE REVEALED
TO THE LIGHT
OF DAY.



SHE'S A
BASTARD
CHILD,
THEN.



HOW-
EVER...



BUT ON OUR
JOURNEY, WE
MET A MAN
WHO TOLD US
SOMETHING...



BUT THE
EMPEROR
PRESENTED US
WITH TRAVEL
MONEY AND A
HANDFUL OF
RETAINERS.

ALL THREE OF
THEM ARE
WONDERFUL
PEOPLE, AND I
AM GRATEFUL
FOR THEIR
SUPPORT.

WHETHER
OUT OF PITY,
GUILT,
OR SOME
REMAINING
SHRED OF
AFFECTION FOR
MOTHER,
I DON'T
KNOW...





WERE I TO
PRESENT BOTH TO
HIS EXCELLENCY,
I WOULD BE
RECOGNIZED AS
AN OFFICIAL
MEMBER OF THE
IMPERIAL FAMILY
AND GIVEN A
PLACE AT COURT.

HE TOLD US
BOTH COULD
BE FOUND
HERE, IN THIS
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY.

**"THE
EMPIRE
DESIRES
THE
DEMON
BLADE
AND THE
BLACK-
SMITH!"**



IT SHOULD
PROVE THE
TRUTH
OF MY
LINEAGE.

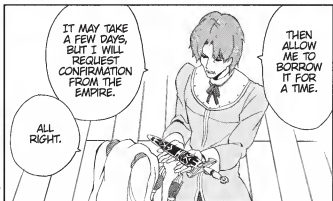


THIS DAGGER
IS, WITHOUT A
DOUBT, THE
SAME ONE THE
EMPEROR
PRESENTED TO
MY MOTHER.



I SAID
IT IS
OKAY.

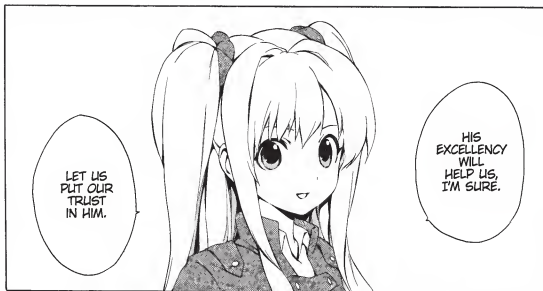
BUT,
LADY
CHAR-
LOTTE--!



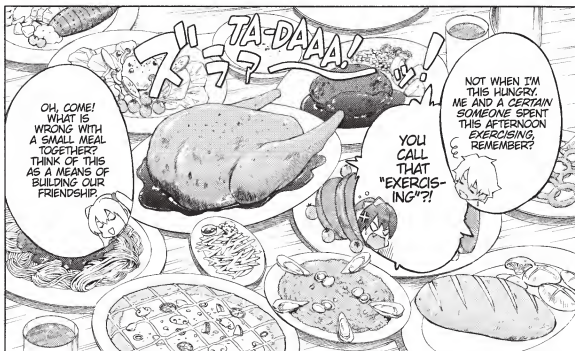
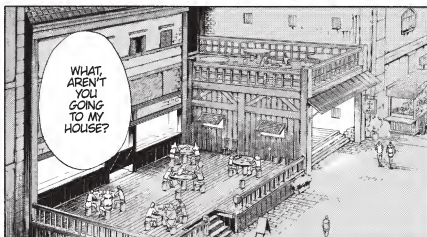
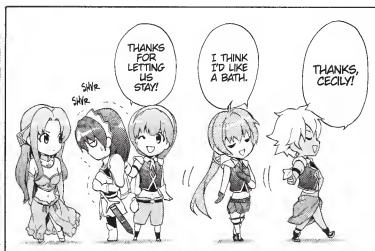
IT MAY TAKE
A FEW DAYS,
BUT I WILL
REQUEST
CONFIRMATION
FROM THE
EMPIRE.

ALL
RIGHT.

THEN
ALLOW
ME TO
BORROW
IT FOR
A TIME.











WHA?

IT'S
NOT
ENOUGH.



ARE YOU
TELLIN'
ME THIS
IS ALL
YOU'VE
GOT?

MISSY...

ERM...



AND
YOU
CALL
YOUR-
SELF A
PRIN-
CESS
?!



CECILY,
I'M
SORRY
!!

WHAT
?!



RIGHT,
SO THIS
GOES ON
CAMPBELL'S
TAB,
THEN.

scribble
scribble

HURR!



✧Charlotte E. Firobisher✧

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza **BRANCH OFFICE I**

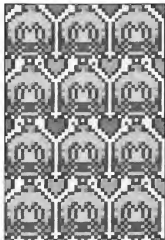
Welcome to the
Grand Opening of the
Atelier Liza Branch
Office! Take a look
at these great fan art
postcards!



↑ Saitama, Kenko Tokuda



↑ Okayama, Kouji Ri



↑ Osaka, Ehiko Nishii

十文字金装錬金をもつ傭兵



傭兵は悪魔が敵を倒すため、主人公と
共に奮戦に立ち向かうも、その最中に倒れた
際の血をかない存在であり、やがては悪魔に
一匹もいなくなるまで倒さなければならない。

↑ Kanagawa, Yui Hamada



Okuyama, Hide-kun ↑

Thanks for all the excellent drawings of me!
And I especially appreciate the wonderful messages!

↑ Saitama, Muneaki Yamauchi



↑ Tochigi, Yama-chan







 Chapter 10 Princess
(Part 3)

WHY
THE HELL
DO WE
HAVE TO
WEAR
THIS
FRILLY
CRAP?!

EHEE
HEE
HEE!

YOU'VE
GOTTA
BE
KIDDING
ME!!

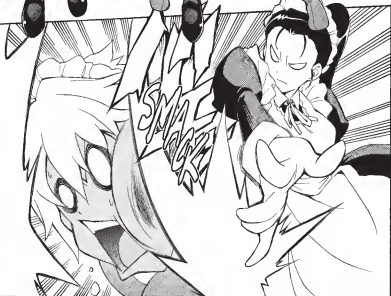
CUT
LAUGHING

DA-
DAAN!



DORIS
!!

GURPH!!





PREPARE YOURSELVES!

HEH HEH. WARNED YOU.

AND NOW, YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA STAY HERE? EXPECT NO MERCY!



CECILY'S A BABY SISTER TO ME, AND YOU HURT HER!



AH...



WORK... SHE SAYS WORKERS ARE ONE WAY...



HUH?

BUT THE SAME GOES FOR YOU!!

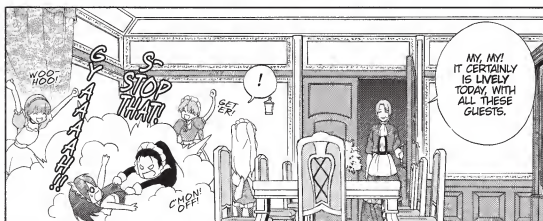
YOU DO NOT GET TO SIT AND WATCH!!



ALL RIGHT!!

IN EXCHANGE FOR ROOM AND BOARD, WE WILL WORK AT WHATEVER JOB YOU GIVE US!!

IF YOU ARE GOING TO INSIST, THEN WE WILL DO IT!!



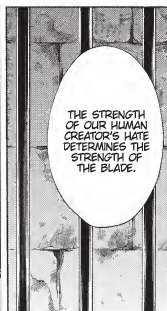
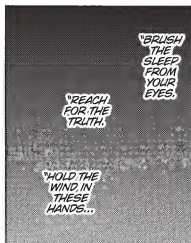


I WOULD
LIKE TO
ASK YOU
SOMETHING.









I'M A...
A DOLL
MADE TO
VENT
SOMEONE'S
RAGE
AGAINST
A BEING
WHICH MAY
OR MAY
NOT EVEN
EXIST.

I'M NOT
A HUMAN.
I'M NOT
AN
INHUMAN.

MY
BODY...

IS
MADE
OF
HATE?

BUT...
IS THAT
REALLY ALL
I AM...?

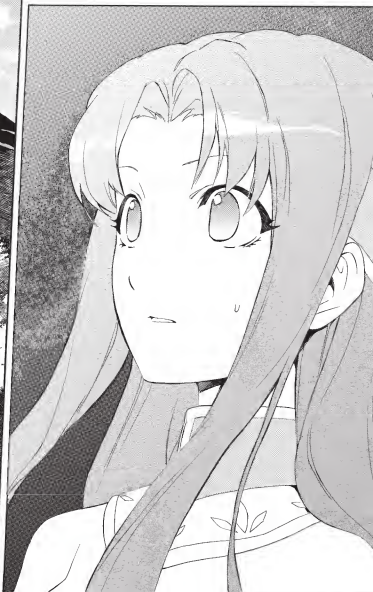
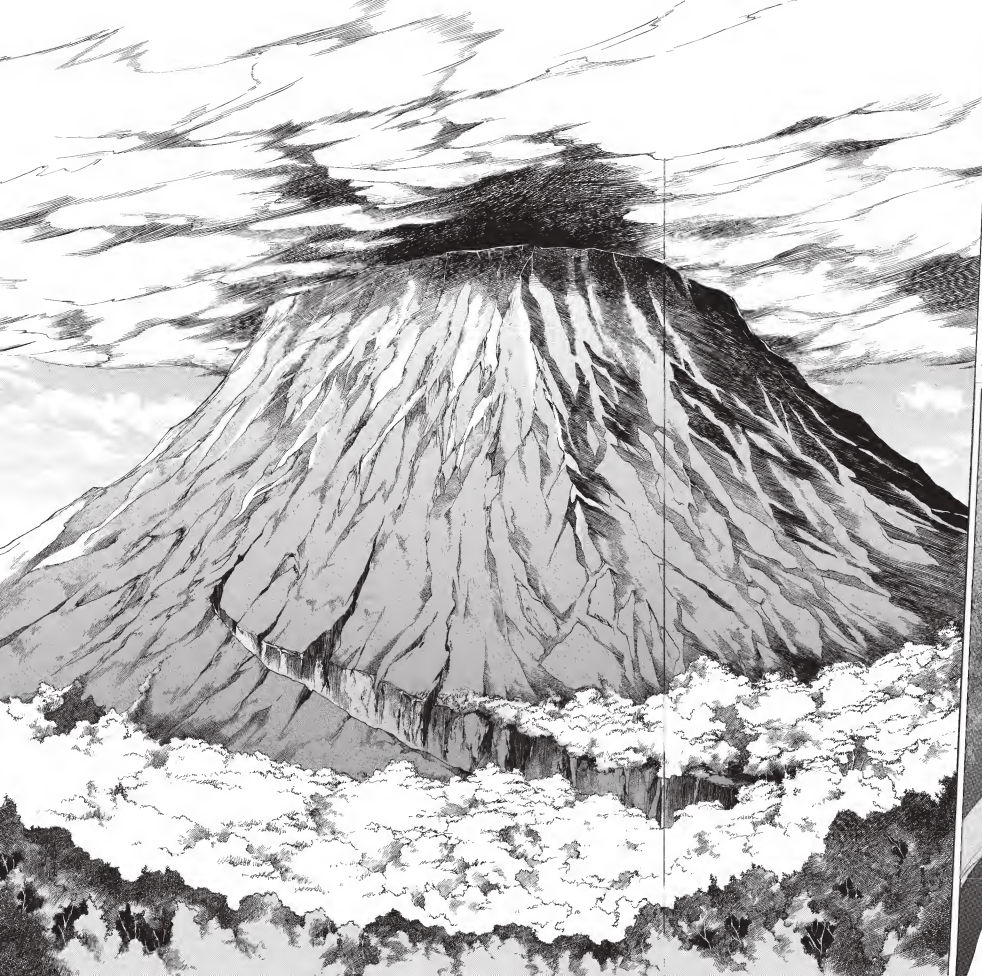
THAT'S
RIDICULOUS.

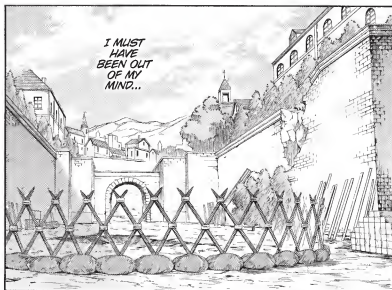
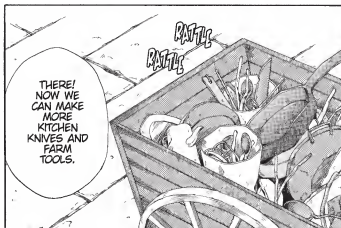
THERE
IS ONE
PLACE
OUR
BLADES
ALWAYS
POINT...

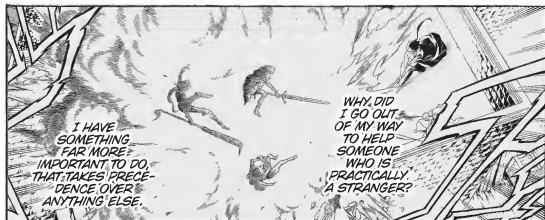
OR,
AT
LEAST,
FEEL
IT.

ARIA
SHOULD
KNOW
THAT.

WHAT
MEANING IS
THERE TO
HATING A
BEING AS
NEBULOUS
AS
"GOD"?!







CECILY CAMPBELL.

YOU LOOK SOOO CUTE, MISS CECILY !!

OOOH!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU WEAR--

JUST LIKE A DOLLIE!

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

FIO MADE ME WEAR THIS!

おん BAAAN?!

AND... AND SHE MADE ME RUN ERRANDS, TOO!!

SHAKE SHAKE

CALM DOWN.

YOU HAVE THE WRONG IDEA!



B-BLIT I'M A KNIGHT!









IT SHOULD BE HUNG?
AH... MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN BAD ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING, REALLY.

AT LEAST HANG IT UP WHERE IT CAN STAY DRY!

UGH!
THIS THING IS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE.



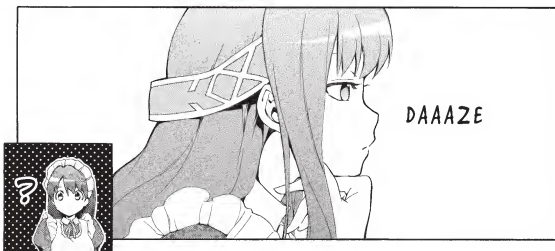
I DON'T THINK I'M USING ARIA'S POWER REALLY WELL AT ALL.

SHE'S RIGHT. I HAD STARTED TO REALIZE IT MYSELF, TOO...

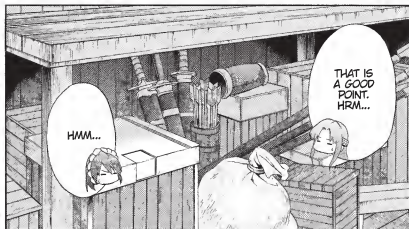
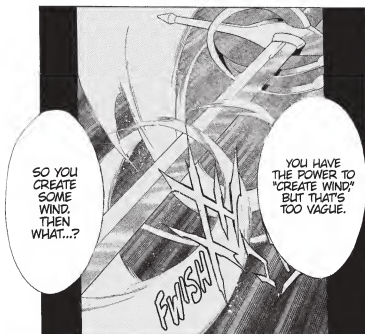


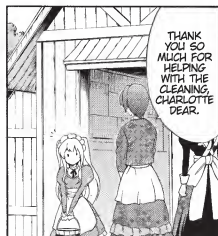
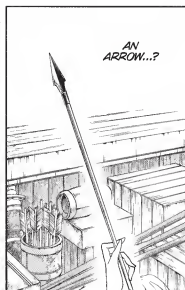
YOU GOTTA KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT SWORDS, IF YOU WANNA HAVE ANY HOPE OF BEING A GOOD SWORDSMAN.

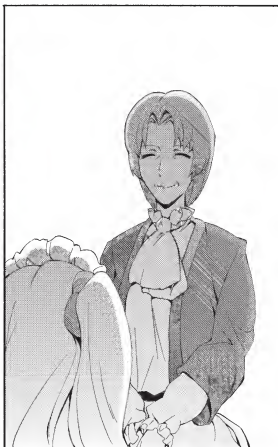
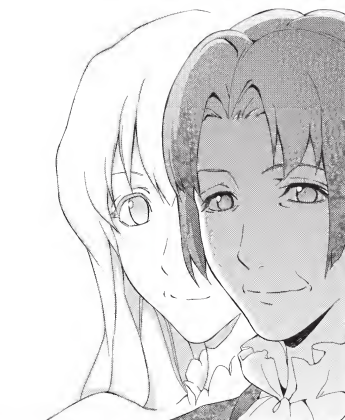
LIRK...



DAAAZE



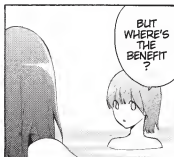




HA
HA
HA
HA!
LOOK AT YOU
LOOK COVERED
IN DUST!

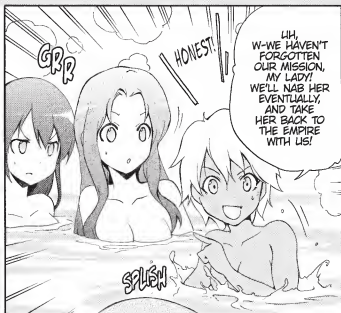


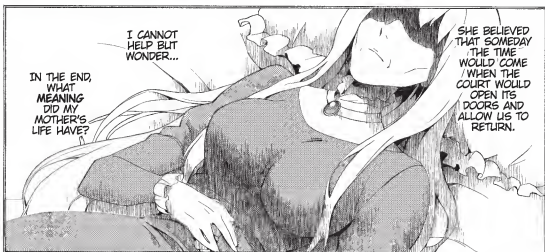
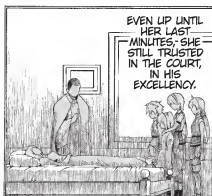






THAT'S SO COOL...





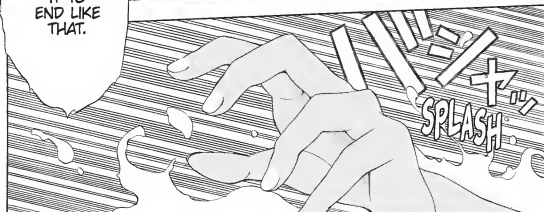


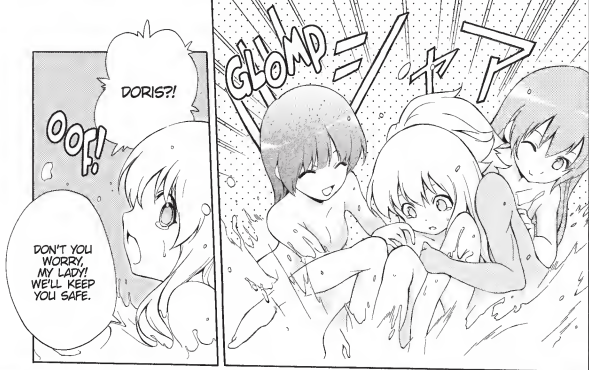


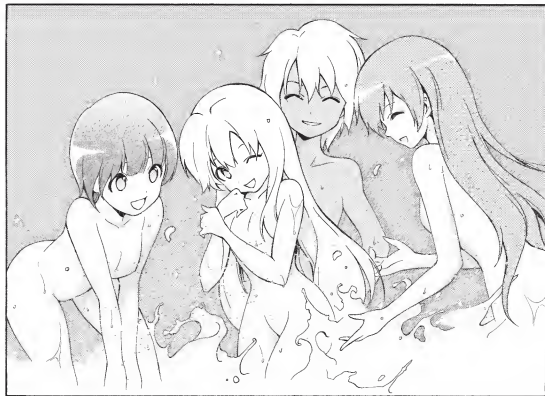
I...
I
CANNOT
ALLOW
IT TO
END LIKE
THAT.



THEN MY
MOTHER WILL
HAVE DIED IN
VAIN. THE ONE
THING SHE
EVER WANTED,
DENIED TO
HER FOR NO
REASON.







STILL,
THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS
I JUST
CAN'T
GIVE UP.

THAT MEANS
MY DEVOTION
LOST
COMPLETELY
TO THEIR
DEVOTION TO
CHARLOTTE.

WHEN I
FOUGHT
THOSE
THREE,
I LOST
TO THEM
LITTERLY.

IT'S SO
FRUS-
TRATING,
ARIA.



I SWORE
I WOULD
PROTECT THIS
CITY AND ALL
OF ITS
RESIDENTS.
I CAN'T LET
ANYONE
TRAMPLE
OVER THAT...
NOT EVEN
THEM!



YES.
LET'S GET
STRONGER
TOGETHER.

ARIA,
I WANT
TO GET
STRONGER.

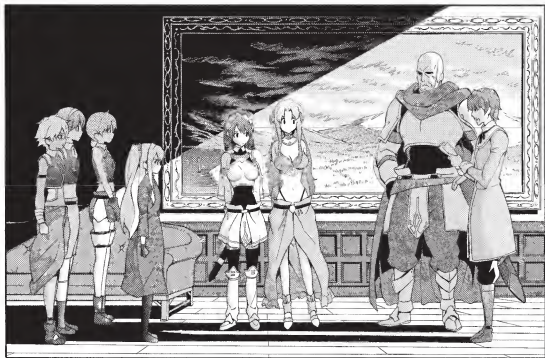


AS YOU
WISH...

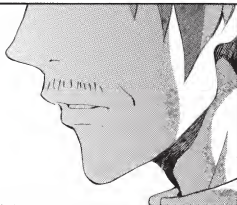
I SEE,
READ IT,
IF YOU
PLEASE.

WE HAVE
RECEIVED A
RESPONSE
FROM THE
EMPIRE.

SEVERAL
DAYS' LATER...



"THE MEMBER
OF THE
IMPERIAL FAMILY
KNOWN AS
CHARLOTTE E.
FIROBISHER..."



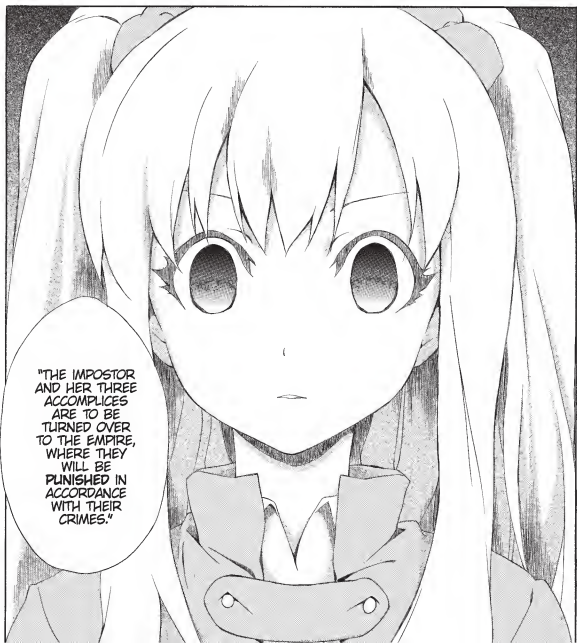


"THE
DAGGER
SHE
PRESENTED
IS A
FORGERY.

"THE GIRL
WHO CLAIMS
AS MUCH IS
AN IMPOSTOR,
WHO IS KNOWN
TO HAVE
STOLEN FOUR
DEMON BLADES
FROM THE
IMPERIAL ARMY.
THESE BLADES
ARE TO BE
RETURNED TO
THE EMPIRE
IMMEDIATELY.



"...DOES
NOT
EXIST.



"THE IMPOSTOR
AND HER THREE
ACCOMPLICES
ARE TO BE
TURNED OVER
TO THE EMPIRE,
WHERE THEY
WILL BE
PUNISHED IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH THEIR
CRIMES."



✧ *Doris* ✧



Some of
these aren't
half-bad...

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza

BRANCH OFFICE II

↑ Tokushima, Dona-dona



↑ Aichi, Nagu-san



↑ Chiba, Takeda Naoki



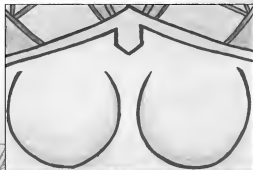
Aichi, Hitsoshi →



← Aichi, Kuromaru Yoshihiro

↑ Yamaguchi, Yosumi

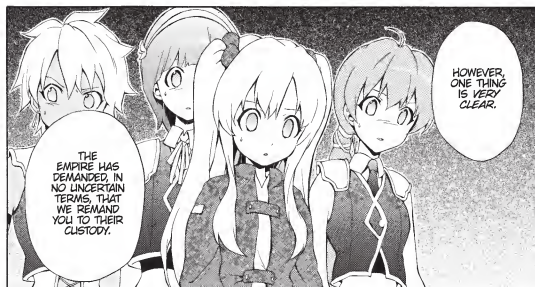
Gods, where do these guys
get all that spare energy?
Still, I can't say I don't
like the results.



↑ Aichi, Excalbur



 Chapter 11 *Princess* (Part 4)





**CHAR-
LOTTE
!!**



**DO YOU
WANT
TO BE
BRANDED
A CRIMINAL
IN YOUR
OWN
LAND?!**

**THIS IS THE
SECOND
TIME THE
EMPEROR
AND HIS
COURT HAVE
THROWN YOU
AWAY!!**



**YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
BE THINKING
OF GOING
ALONG
WITH THAT
ABSURDITY!!**



**SILENCE,
CECILY
CAMPBELL!**

**MAYOR,
DO YOU
KNOW
OF ANY--**



**WE
HAVEN'T
ANY
OTHER
CHOICE.**

**BUT
WHAT
COULD
WE
DO?**



CAPTAIN,
CAN YOU
REALLY SAY
YOU ARE
OKAY WITH
THIS, TOO?!

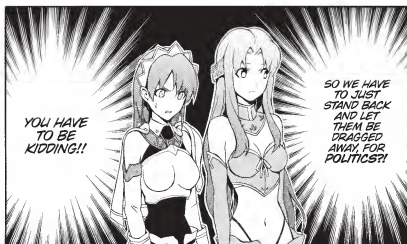


THAT IS
THE
REALITY OF
POLITICS.

WE CAN'T
LET OUR
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
THE EMPIRE
SOUR.



ONE ORDINARY
KNIGHT
DOESN'T HAVE
THE POWER OR
THE MEANS TO
HELP THESE
GIRLS NOW.
YOU WILL
STAND DOWN.



YOU HAVE
TO BE
KIDDING!!

SO WE HAVE
TO JUST
STAND BACK
AND LET
THEM BE
DRAGGED
AWAY FOR
POLITICS?!



MY
APOLO-
GIES...

WHAT'S
WRONG?

NOTHING, SIR.
SHE'S SIMPLY
BEEN TRAINING
SO HARD LATELY,
SHE DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
FOR SLEEP.

YOU'LL
BE OKAY,
RIGHT?



?!
??

CECILY!

Shmp



"I WILL
SAVE
EVERYTHING
THESE
HANDS
OF MINE
CAN
REACH."

THAT
IS MY
DUTY!



YES.



ARIA,
WHEN WE
FOUGHT
THAT FIRE
DEMON,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT I
SAID
TO IT?

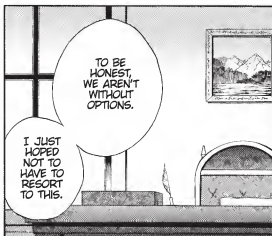
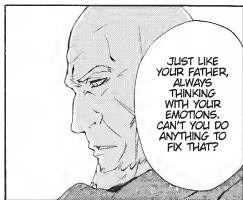
DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT I
SWORE
OVER JACK
STRADER'S
GRAVE?



PLEASE,
CAPTAIN!
CAN'T WE
WORK
TOGETHER
TO FIGURE
OUT SOME
SORT OF
PLAN?!

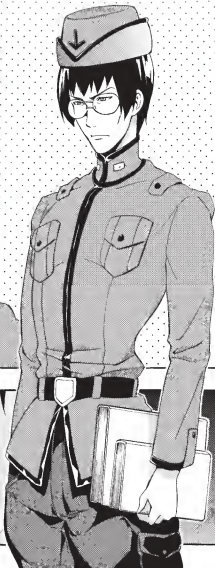
THERE
MUST BE
SOME
WAY WE
CAN HELP
THEM!

THERE
MUST!!



A
MILITARY
UNIFORM
...?

SHP



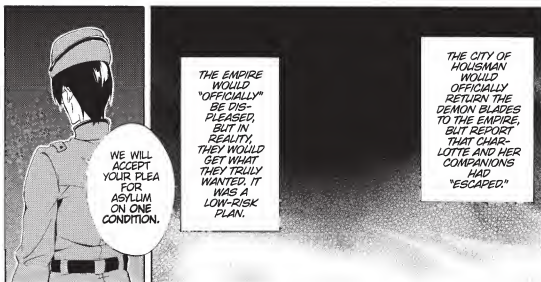
A
PLEASURE.
YES.

THIS IS
AREVY
IRVING.

HE IS A
TACTICIAN
FOR THE
MILITANT
NATION.

BY CHANCE,
HE HAPPENED
TO BE IN TOWN.
THUS, I ASKED
HIM IF HE
COULD ATTEND
TODAY.

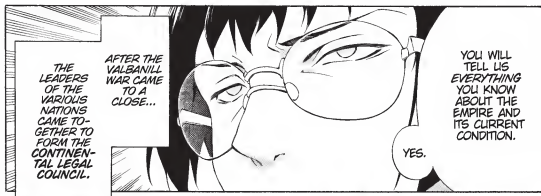




WE WILL
ACCEPT
YOUR PLEA
FOR
ASYLUM
ON ONE
CONDITION.

THE EMPIRE
WOULD
"OFFICIALLY"
BE DIS-
PLEASED,
BUT IN
REALITY,
THEY WOULD
GET WHAT
THEY TRULY
WANTED. IT
WAS A
LOW-RISK
PLAN.

THE CITY OF
HOUSMAN
WOULD
OFFICIALLY
RETURN THE
DEMON BLADES
TO THE EMPIRE,
BUT REPORT
THAT CHAR-
LOTTE AND HER
COMPANIONS
HAD
"ESCAPED."

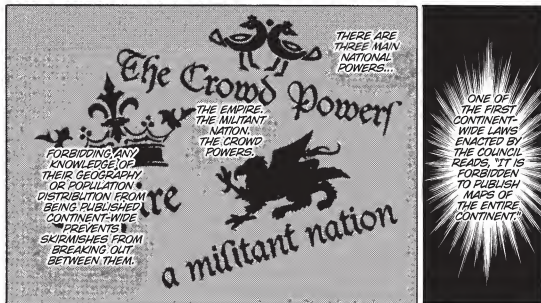


THE
LEADERS
OF THE
VARIOUS
NATIONS
CAME TO-
GETHER TO
FORM THE
CONTINEN-
TAL LEGAL
COUNCIL.

AFTER THE
VALBANILL
WAR CAME
TO A
CLOSE...

YOU WILL
TELL US
EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE
EMPIRE AND
ITS CURRENT
CONDITION.

YES.



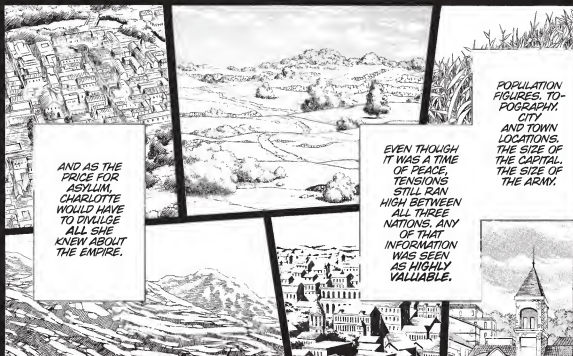
THERE ARE
THREE MAIN
NATIONAL
POWERS...

THE EMPIRE.
THE MILITANT
NATION.
THE CROWD
POWERS.

FORBIDDING ANY
KNOWLEDGE OF
THEIR GEOGRAPHY
OR POPULATION
DISTRIBUTION FROM
BEING PUBLISHED
CONTINENT-WIDE
PREVENTS
SKIRMISHES FROM
BREAKING OUT
BETWEEN THEM.

are
a militant nation

ONE OF
THE FIRST
CONTINENT-
WIDE LAWS
ENACTED BY
THE COUNCIL
READS, "IT IS
FORBIDDEN
TO PUBLISH
MAPS OF
THE ENTIRE
CONTINENT."



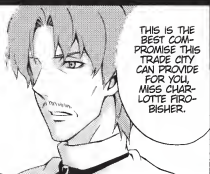
AND AS THE PRICE FOR ASYLUM, CHARLOTTE WOULD HAVE TO DIVULGE ALL SHE KNEW ABOUT THE EMPIRE.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A TIME OF PEACE, TENSIONS STILL RAN HIGH BETWEEN ALL THREE NATIONS, ANY OF THAT INFORMATION WAS SEEN AS HIGHLY VALUABLE.

POPULATION FIGURES, TOPOGRAPHY, CITY AND TOWN LOCATIONS, THE SIZE OF THE CAPITAL, THE SIZE OF THE ARMY.



WHAT WILL YOU DO?



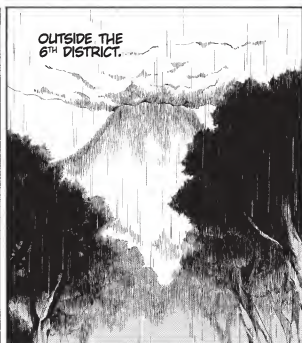
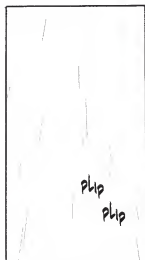
THIS IS THE BEST COMPROMISE THIS TRADE CITY CAN PROVIDE FOR YOU, MISS CHARLOTTE FIRO-BISHER.

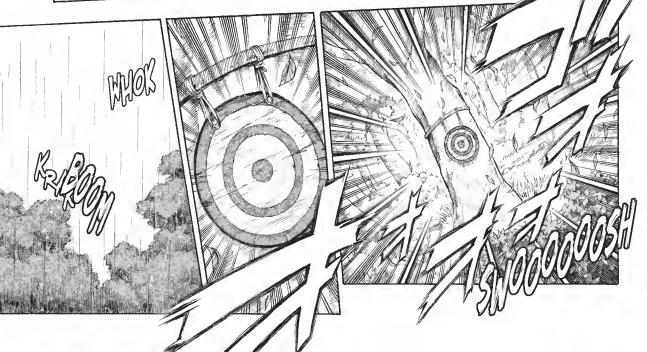
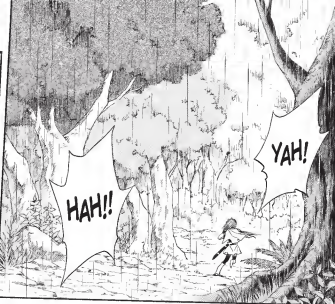


WIK...



THEY ARE ASKING ME TO RENOUNCE THE EMPIRE...?!







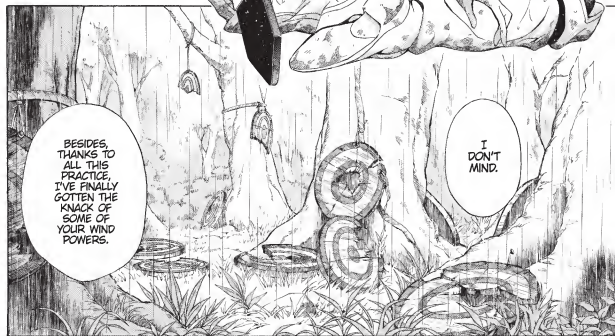
CECILY DEAR,
YOU ARE
OVERDOING
IT.

FS SHHH

HAH...
HAH...



YOU HAVE
BEEN TRAINING
SO HARD
THESE LAST
SEVERAL DAYS.
YOU'VE BARELY
EVEN SLEPT.
YOU'LL
HURT
YOURSELF!



BESIDES,
THANKS TO
ALL THIS
PRACTICE,
I'VE FINALLY
GOTTEN THE
KNACK OF
SOME OF
YOUR WIND
POWERS.

I
DON'T
MIND.



CECILY HAS A NATURAL INSTINCT FOR IT.

YES, BUT THAT ISN'T ALL..



THOUGH MUCH OF IT IS RISKY.

AH, WELL. I CAN MAKE UP FOR IT WITH GRITS AND GRIT. I'M GOOD AT THAT PART, AT LEAST.

TRUE. YOU HAVE BECOME VERY ADEPT AT WIELDING ME, IN A VERY SHORT TIME.



ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, DO YOU THINK CHARLOTTE AND THE OTHERS WILL ACCEPT THE OFFER OF ASYLUM?

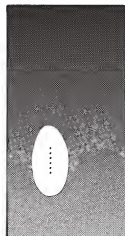
BUT?



I THINK YOU MIGHT BE AN EXCELLENT DEMON BLADE WIELDER SOMEDAY, CECILY.



THANKS, BUT...

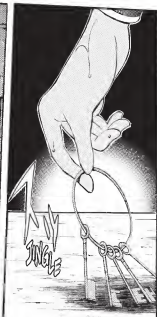
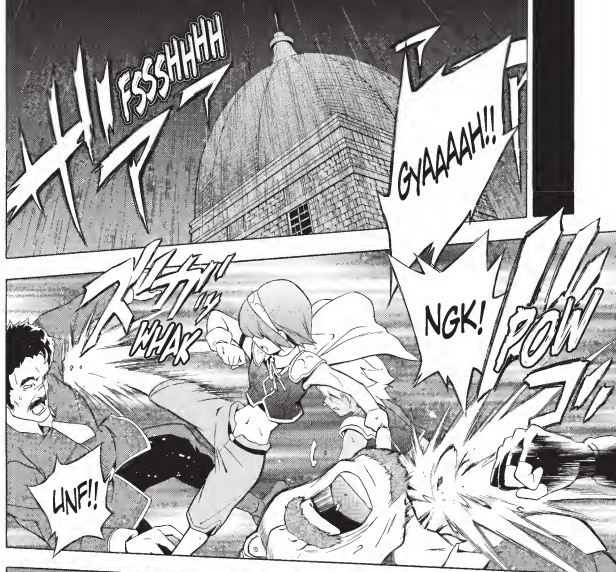


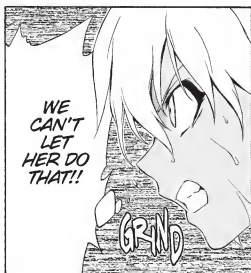
ARE YOU WORRIED?



RIGHT NOW, THAT IS THE BEST OPTION THEY CURRENTLY HAVE.

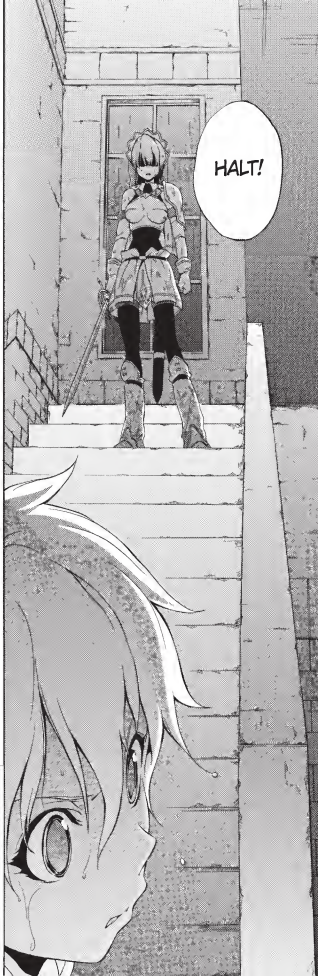
BUT DORIS AND THE OTHERS LOOKED... DETERMINED.



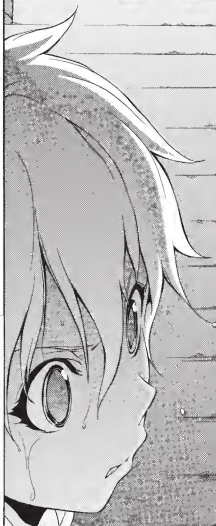


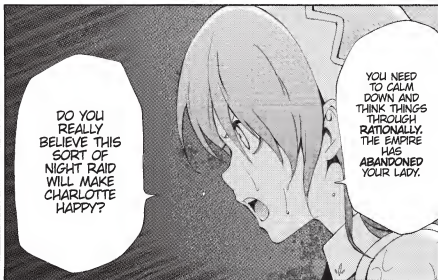
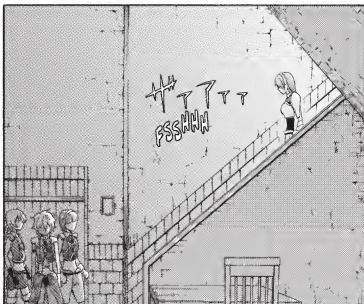


CECILY...!



HALT!





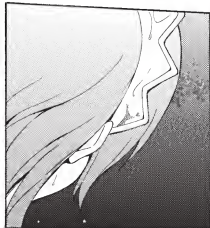


YOU
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING,
SO SHUT
UP AND
LEAVE
US BE!!



TRUE.

THERE IS
NOTHING
I CAN
SAY TO
THAT.



I AM JUST
A COMMON
KNIGHT,
WHO CAN
DO NOTHING
BUT SHOUT
AND WHINE,
AND FLAIL
MY ARMS.

SURE,
I BOASTED
ABOUT SAVING
ALL THAT I
COULD REACH,
BUT IT IS THE
MAYOR AND
THE CAPTAIN
WHO TAKE THE
RISK IN THIS,
NOT ME.



ARE YOU
SURE I
CAN'T
CONVINCE
YOU TO
WITHDRAW?



I'M POW-
ERLESS...

AS
USUAL.



YOUR DEMON
BLADES.
THEY SHOULD
BE STORED
AT THE END
OF THIS
HALL.

THEN
GO GET
THEM.

HUH...?



NEVER!



ALL
RIGHT.



ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
GOING
TO LET
US GO?!

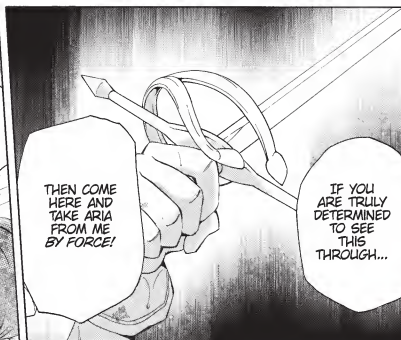
ARE YOU
SURE?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING,
CECILY?



QUICKLY.





**I'M
STUB-
BORN
!!!**



WOOSH

FOR LADY
CHARLOTTE'S
SAKE...

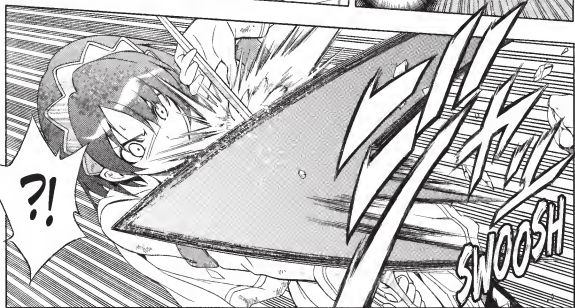
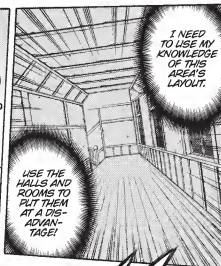
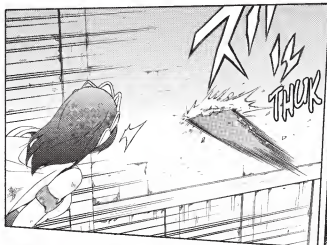
WE WILL
BEAT YOU
INTO THE
GROUND!!

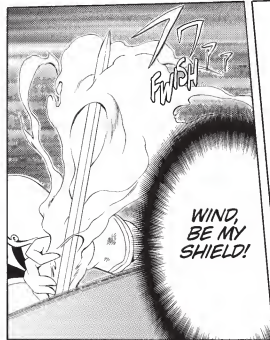
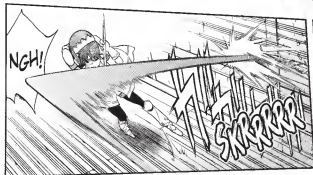
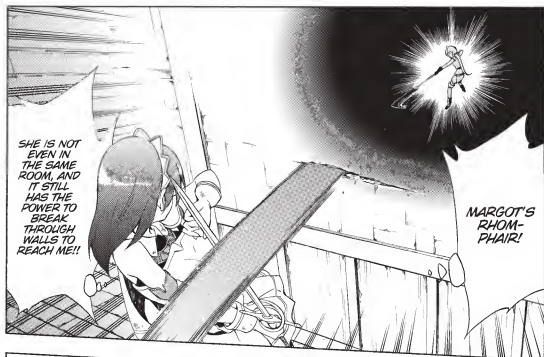
YOU'D
BETTER
NOT
REGRET
IT, THEN!

WSHH

EN
GARDE,
CECILY
CAMP-
BELL!!











THEN I
GUESS
YOU
HAD
BETTER
BLOCK
IT, HM?



AN
EXPLOSION
OF WIND?!
BUT WE'RE
INDOORS!





✧ Margot ✧

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier Liza BRANCH OFFICE III

These are all
amazing!



↑ Fukuoka, Noyuki



聖剣の刀鍛冶

↑ Miyazaki, Atri



↑ Kagawa, Kama



↑ Aichi, Kimiune

That one is actually two
postcards together!
It was a little embarrassing
to switch outfits with
Miss Aria, but I felt a little
like a grown up, too.♪

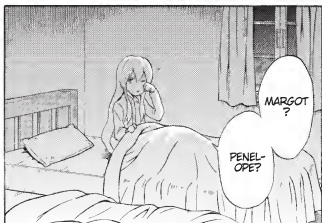
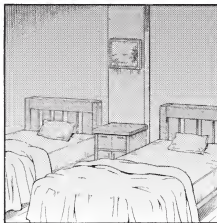
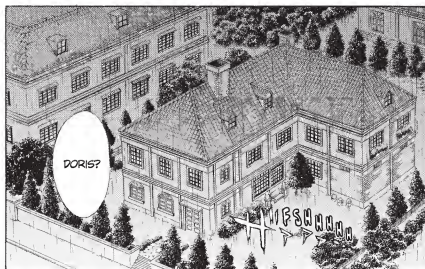
↑ Tokyo, Mitsuki



Thank you for all the wonderful postcards! Everyone who was displayed
here will receive a personalized sketch from Yamada-sensei himself!
I'm sorry to all the people who didn't have their postcard displayed,
but we will have another contest, so keep on sending them in!

Note: Fan Art contest only open to residents in Japan.









MAYBE.
BUT THAT WAS
JUST THE
OPPORTUNITY
I NEEDED TO
OPEN SOME
DISTANCE
BETWEEN US!



MY
BALLOCK
KNIFE WILL
ABSORB
IT ALL!!

SWOOSH



MY BODY,
THE
SHAFT...

THE WIND
IS THE
FLETCHING.

AND
ARIA IS
THE
POINT!



?!



WE
BECOME
ONE
GIANT
ARROW!

TOGETHER
...





MAR-GOT!

THAT DOES IT!!

PENEL-OPE!!

YEEEEEEK!!

KRAASH

WATER

WHU NGH!

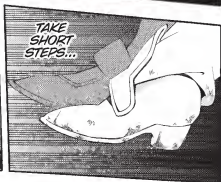




DODGE
THE BLOW
BY A
HAIR'S
BREADTH.



USE
QUICK,
TIGHT
PIVOTS.



TAKE
SHORT
STEPS...

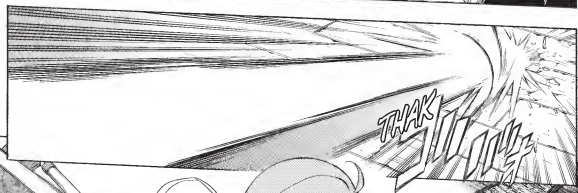


I THINK I'M
GOING TO
ASK YOU TO
COME DOWN
AND FACE
ME ON THE
SAME STAGE!

IF YOU
ARE
GOING TO
CONTINUE
TRYING TO
ATTACK
FROM MY
BLIND
SIDE...



TO GAIN
A HAND'S
WIDTH OF
DISTANCE
AT A TIME!





MARGOT!!



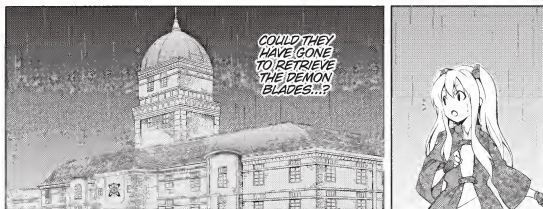
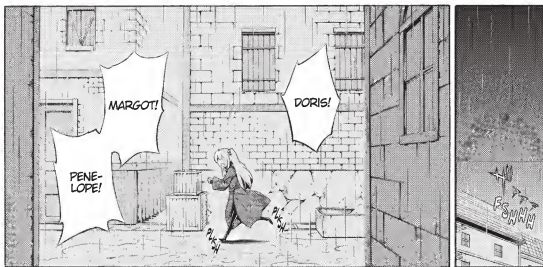
DORIS.

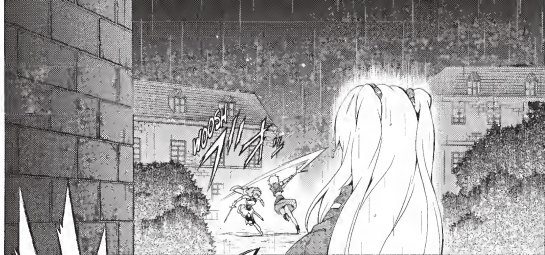


HOW...?!



CECILY!





DO YOU
HONESTLY
BELIEVE
THE EMPIRE
WILL HELP
CHARLOTTE?!

ANSWER
ME,
DORIS!





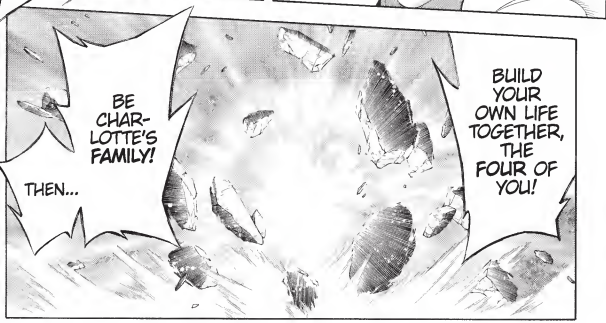




**CAST
ASIDE
THE
TITLE
"E"!!**



**THE
EMPIRE
LEFT YOU,
SO YOU
SHOULD
LEAVE
THE
EMPIRE!!**



**BE
CHAR-
LOTTE'S
FAMILY!**

THEN...

**BUILD
YOUR
OWN LIFE
TOGETHER,
THE
FOUR OF
YOU!**

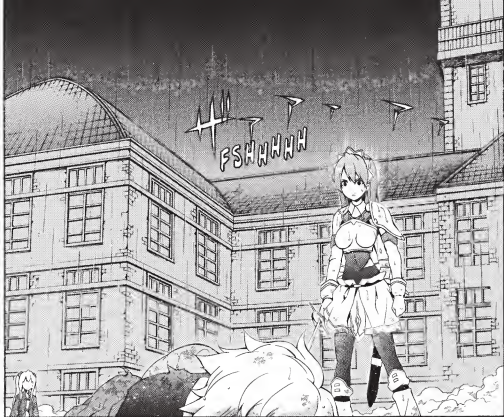
MAKE
HER
HAPPY!!

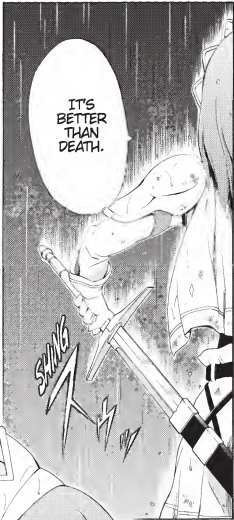
WHOO
OOOO
OOOO

OOOO

OOOM

FWOOOO





IT'S
BETTER
THAN
DEATH.



WHAT IS
THE POINT
OF LIVING
A LONG,
SHELTERED
LIFE IN THE
MILITANT
NATION...

AM I JUST TO
ALLOW SOME
FOREIGN
NATION TO
TAKE ME IN
OUT OF *PITY*?!
AM I TO
SELL OUT MY
HOMELAND
AND LIVE IN
CONSTANT
FEAR OF THEIR
SHADOW?!

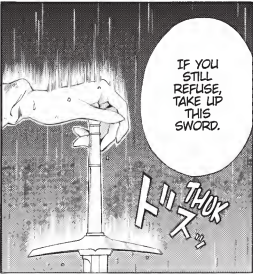


IF IT
MEANS
I MUST
GIVE UP
MY
MOTHER'S
MEMORY?!



CAN YOU
TRULY
KEEP YOUR
HONOR.

BUT
KNOW
THAT
ONLY BY
LIVING...



IF YOU
STILL
REFUSE,
TAKE UP
THIS
SWORD.

トッ
THOK
ズ







AS OF THIS
MOMENT,
CHARLOTTE E.
FIROBISHER
IS DEAD.





AND WITH
THAT, THE
ENTIRE
INCIDENT
CAME TO
A CLOSE.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

THE FOUR
DEMON
BLADES
WERE
RETURNED
TO THE
EMPIRE,
AND THE
FOUR GIRLS
"ESCAPED."

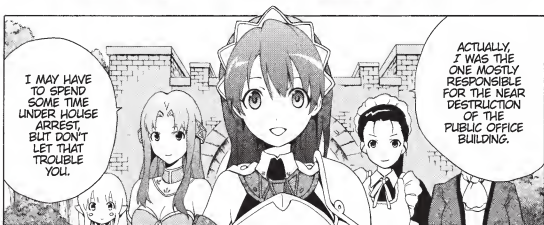
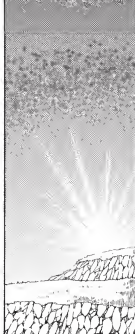
AS WAS
ORIGINALLY
PLANNED...





I MEAN,
WE DID
WRECK YOUR
PUBLIC
OFFICE
BUILDING.

UH, ARE
YOU SURE
IT'S OKAY
FOR US TO
TAKE OFF
LIKE THIS?



I MAY HAVE
TO SPEND
SOME TIME
UNDER HOUSE
ARREST,
BUT DON'T
LET THAT
TROUBLE
YOU.

ACTUALLY,
I WAS THE
ONE MOSTLY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE NEAR
DESTRUCTION
OF THE
PUBLIC OFFICE
BUILDING.



WE WON'T
EVER
FORGET
WHAT WE
OWE YOU
FOR THIS.

STILL, OUR
BEHAVIOR
DID CAUSE
YOU A GREAT
DEAL OF
TROUBLE.



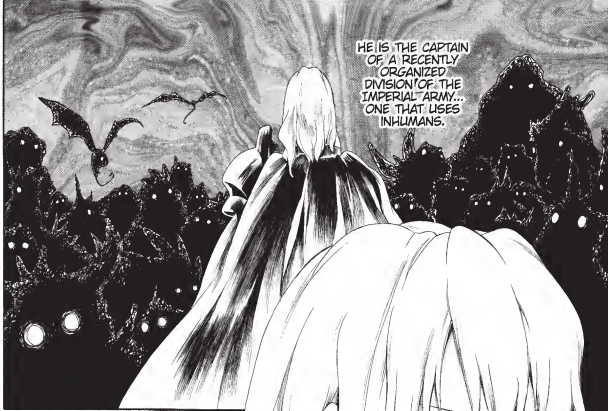
THE
IMPORTANT
PART IS THAT
THE CAPTAIN
AGREED TO
COVER THE
BULK OF
THE REPAIR
COSTS.

IN FACT,
WHEN HE
SAW THE
BUILDING
WRECKAGE,
HE WASN'T
UPSET. HE
BURST OUT
LAUGHING!

THAT IS
A HUGE
HELP!!
HE IS
A SAVOR!!







HE IS THE CAPTAIN
OF A RECENTLY
ORGANIZED
DIVISION OF THE
IMPERIAL ARMY...
ONE THAT USES
INHUMANS.

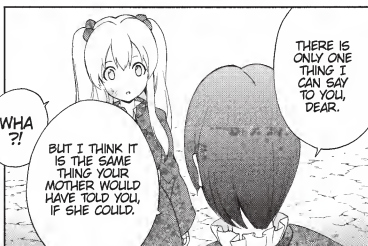
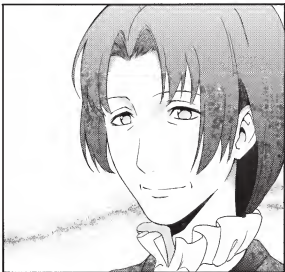
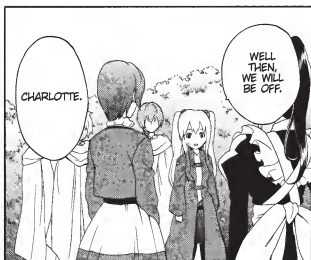


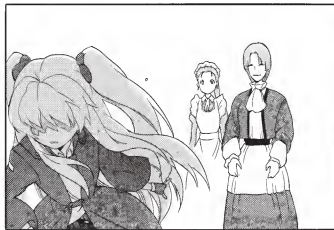
oooooooooooo

REMEMBER
HIM.



HIS
NAME IS
SIEGFRIED.



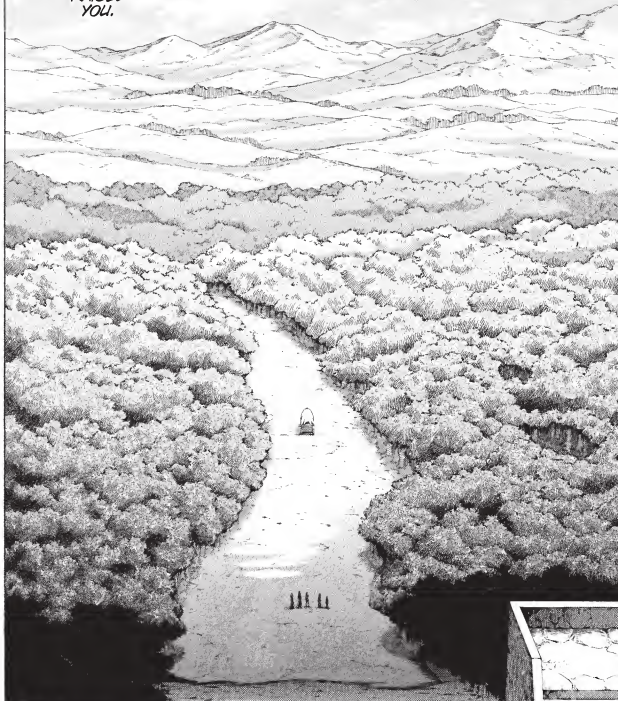




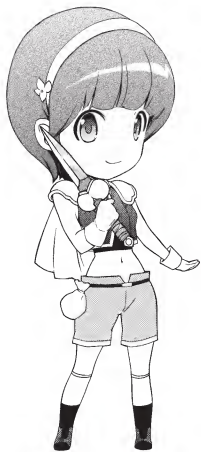
AND FOR
THE THREE
GIRLS
WHO HAVE
RAISED
YOU.

FOR THE
MOTHER
WHO BORE
YOU...

I HAVE THE
UTMOST
RESPECT...



To be continued...



✧ Penelope ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ッ ク ス 鍛 ミ 冶 ス



Charlotte's

Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Did you enjoy *The Sacred Blacksmith* Volume 3? As a special treat, I have decided to conduct today's "Let's Learn Blacksmithing!" corner in Lisa's stead. The previous two Corners focused on how Luke's katana is forged. This time, let us take a look at the Demon Blades that make an appearance in the main story. Follow me closely, everyone!

Class #3: The Demon Blade Models



WE'VE
GOT NO
QUARREL
WITH YOU,
KNIGHT.



These blades do not actually have the power to summon the wind or create fissures in the earth like Aria and Doris' claymore, of course. However, that does not mean these blades did not have an impact! Turn the page to learn more...

GO!

Take a look at the swords which served as models.

In *The Sacred Blacksmith*, there are several Demon Blades besides Aria that make an appearance. In Volume 3, we witness my debut, and with me comes not one, but *four* new blades. We have not yet been able to showcase the powers of Demon Blade Evadne (a flamberge), but there were many scenes depicting the various strengths of Doris, Margot, and Penelope's three Blades.

As Luke's sword was modeled off of the Japanese katana, these three new Blades have also been modeled off of existing sword types. A closer look at these historical swords will show that they are just as unique as their Demon Blade versions in the story.

So which swords are they? Well, there is the rapier (Aria), the claymore (Doris), the rhomphair (Margot) and the ballock knife (Penelope). Allow me to explain a little about them.

Mysterious New Swords Have Appeared!

ロンパイア

● Wielder: Margot



Basic Details

Name: Rhomphaire
Length: 1-2m
Weight: 2.5-5kg
Era: 3rd to 1st centuries BC



Also called a "rhomphaia," the rhomphaire was originally used by the ancient Thracians who lived in Northern Greece. A two-handed weapon, its blade is slightly curved, like a scythe. And, just like a scythe, the inner edge of the curve is also sharpened. The hilt, which is made of wood, is usually the same length as the blade. It's said that, though too long to be used in close combat, it was still sharp enough to cut the legs out from an enemy's horse. It is also said that once they defeated an enemy, the Thracians would stick his head on the end of their rhomphaire and use it to intimidate their foes! So frightening!

A type of dagger, ballock knives were not only used for close-quarters fighting; they were often used to deliver the killing blow to the mortally wounded as well. They feature two, ah, *distinct* metal spheres on the hilt. To be blunt, the name "ballock" comes from those spheres, which very closely resemble, er... male genitalia, "ballocks."

ボロックナイフ

● Wielder: Penelope



Basic Details

Name: Ballock Knife
Length: 20-30cm
Weight: 0.4-0.5kg
Era: 12th-14th century



It was even said that ballock knives were for men's use only! The spherical shape was intended not only as a guard to protect the hand from enemy strikes, but also as hand-holds to help the wielder grasp it out of a stabbed foe. But the, uh... overall image of the blade is still the most striking thing about it.

Though they may all be called "swords" each of these weapons is very different, created by the very different eras and circumstances in which they were used. It's interesting pieces of trivia like this that help to make the world of *The Sacred Blacksmith* that much deeper!

See You Next Time!

レイピア

● Name: Demon Blade Aria
● Wielder: Cecily



Basic Details

Name: Rapier
Length: 90cm-1.2m
Weight: 1.5kg
Era: 16-17th century

Rapiers are swords useful for defense, as well as attack. Their hilts are often decorated with ornate, sweeping metalwork. Called "swept hilts," these decorations were actually meant to protect the wielder's hand and provide a means to entangle or even snap the opponent's blade.



● Swept Hilt

The model for Demon Blade Aria is a sword called a "rapier." A sword designed for piercing, it has a slim blade and a very sharp point. Its full name, *eepee-rapier*, is French. *Epee* = sword, *rapier* = piercing. It was first developed in Europe's middle ages. As the proliferation of guns rendered traditional armor useless, and as more people flocked to cities and castle towns with narrow streets, Europeans looked for ways to defend themselves in tight places. A rapier is a sword useful for both attack and defense, and it is handy in a pinch when challenged to a duel. Rapiers can be wielded with one hand, while the other hand holds a parrying-dagger, used to deflect the opponent's strikes.

クレイモア

● Wielder: Doris



Basic Details

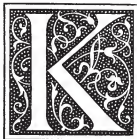
Name: Claymore
Length: 1-2m
Weight: 3kg
Era: 16th century



A crosspiece angled towards the sword's tip, and complex circular designs on the cross-piece's ends mark a sword as a claymore. The term "claymore" is an English version of the original Gaelic word, *claidheamh mòr*, which means "great sword." Used primarily by the peoples who lived in the Scottish Highlands, a claymore is designed for slashing. It is one of the smaller two-handed swords in European history, and it can be used to make very quick swings. Used mostly in the 16th century, claymores are a stage in the transition between big, heavy two-handed swords designed to club heavily-armored opponents and the bastard-sword, a later-era blade made to hack and slash at lightly-armored opponents.

Here are some details and illustrations for the four swords used as models for the Demon Blade, the weapon system in this volume of *The Sacred Blacksmith*. Check it out! ✕

Demon Blade Model Diagrams



A Lazy Afterword



**Judo Master
MURAYAMA-SAN**



**(Still) Addicted
to DQ9
NAKAMURA-SAN**

**Hay Fever Sufferer
YOSHIDA-SAN**



**Rice & Cat Lover
YOSHINO-SAN**



**Perspective Artist
SUGANUMA-SAN**



**Bread Baker
YANAGII-KUN**

BEING ABLE
TO DETAIL
HOW THEY--
AND CECILY--
GREW
ACROSS THE
VOLUME WAS
GREAT.

WE GOT TO
INTRODUCE
CHARLOTTE,
HER MOTHER,
AND HER
THREE
COMPANIONS.

IN THIS
VOLUME, WE
PRESENTED THE
CHARLOTTE
ARC FROM
THE NOVELS.

AND I
JUST
TURNED
THE
BIG 3-O.
HOO
BOY.



HI.
I'M
YAMADA.

**IT'S BEEN
5 MONTHS!**

AAH!
SO THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
WHO ARE
MOE
FOR THE
PITIFUL
CHARAC-
TERS,
TOO.

AAH!

YEAH.
HER NAME
IS ALWAYS
THE LAST
ONE CALLED,
BUT SHE'S
ALWAYS THE
ONE WHO GETS
BEAT FIRST!



MY
FAVORITE IS
PENELOPE.

THAT
MINI-SKIRT
OF HERS
IS PRETTY
HOT. HER
VOICE IN
THE ANIME
IS SEXY,
TOO.

Y'KNOW,
I'VE
GOTTA
SAY I
LIKE
MARGOT
BEST.

WHILE WE
WERE
WORKING
ON IT,
EVERY NOW
AND AGAIN,
WE'D TALK
ABOUT WHICH
ONE OF
CHARLOTTE'S
THREE
COMPANIONS
WE LIKED
BEST.

HUHH.
REALLY?



BY THE WAY,
ATTO-SENSEI'S NEW
VOLUME CAME OUT
AT THE SAME TIME
AS THIS MANGA!
IT'S A SLICE-
OF-LIFE SERIES,
BUT IT'S REALLY
AWESOME!
I RECOMMEND IT!



ATTO-SENSEI

THANK YOU
TO ALL
THE OTHER
ARTISTS WHO
PARTICIPATED!!

IT KINDA
TURNED INTO A
SUPER-ANTHOLOGY,
FULL OF SOME BIG
NAMES. ALL THE
STORIES IN IT ARE
REALLY GOOD!



ONE WAS AN
ANTHOLOGY
MANGA THAT
WILL GO
ALONG WITH
THE JAPANESE
DVD/BD RELEASE
OF THE ANIME.
THAT WAS AN
AWESOME
CHANGE OF
PACE.

WITH THE ANIME
COMING OUT,
I'VE BEEN
ATTENDING A
LOT OF EVENTS
IN THE PAST
FEW MONTHS.
I'VE ALSO BEEN
WORKING ON
OTHER
PROJECTS.

MY EDITOR IS
KEEPING EVERY
PIECE THAT'S BEEN
SUBMITTED ALL
NICE AND NEATLY
FILED, SO I HOPE
TO BE ABLE TO
DISPLAY MORE
AND MORE OF
THEM AS I HAVE
THE TIME!

I'M SORRY
I HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE TO
DISPLAY ALL OF
THEM SO FAR,
BUT HOPEFULLY,
NEXT TIME!

WHOA...!
HAND-
DRAWN
DOT
ART?!



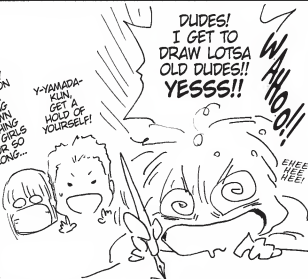
SO FAR,
I'VE ALREADY
GOTTEN A
WHOLE LOT OF
REALLY GOOD
AND REALLY
INTERESTING
PIECES.
THANK YOU!

I'VE ALSO
STARTED UP
A FAN ART
CORNER,
FOR FANS
WHO WANT
TO SEND
IN THEIR
SACRED
BLACKSMITH
FAN ART.

IT'S
PROBABLY
A REACTION
FROM
HAVING
DRAWN
NOTHING
BUT GIRLS
FOR SO
LONG...

Y-YAMADA-
KUN,
GET A
HOLD OF
YOURSELF!

EVEN
BACK IN
VOLUME 1,
HE PUT A
WHOLE
LOT OF
LOVE AND
EFFORT
INTO
THAT OLD
VAGABOND.



DUDES!
I GET TO
DRAW LOTS
OF OLD
DUDES!!
YESSS!!

WAAHOO!!

EEEE
HEE
HEE!

THINGS
ARE GOING
TO SPEED
UP, AS
THE STORY
MOVES
TOWARDS
ALL-OUT
WAR!

NOW THEN,
THE NEXT VOLUME
WILL INTRODUCE
THE BIG MOVERS-
AND-SHAKERS
OF THE THREE
MAJOR NATIONS.



AND YOU
KNOW WHAT
THAT
MEANS...

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

VOLUME 3



story by Isao Miura

art by Kotaro Yamada

Character Design Luna

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THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOLUME 3

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



